

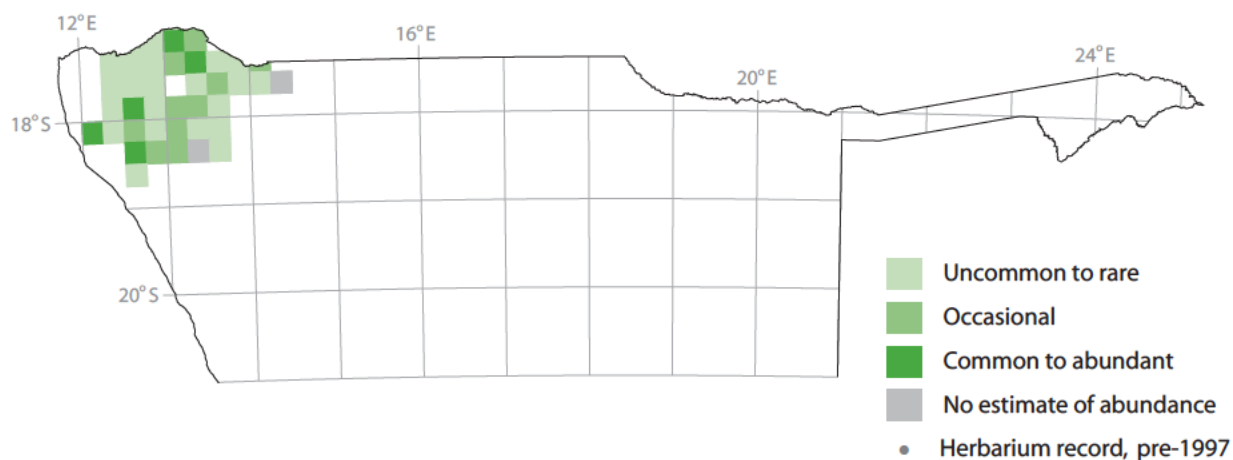
*Boscia microphylla*Slender-leaved  
Shepherds-tree

[76 records from 41 (4%) squares]



Evergreen to semi-deciduous tree. BARK older branches smooth, red-brown and hairless; young branchlets downy and spiny. LEAVES simple, spirally arranged or clustered on dwarf shoots; linear-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, very narrow; both surfaces dull green and hairless. INFLORESCENCE a small, elongate cluster, borne on dwarf shoots or terminally on lateral branches. FLOWERS green-yellow, small, petals absent. FRUIT spherical, <10 mm in diameter.

Can be confused with *B. foetida* or *Maerua parvifolia*.

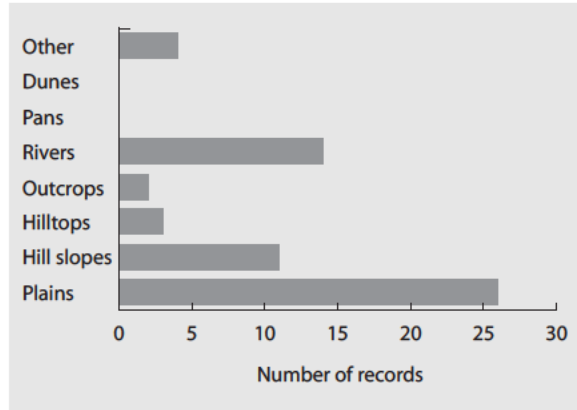


## DISTRIBUTION &amp; ABUNDANCE

Uncommon to occasional and fairly widespread in the extreme north-west. There were a number of older, herbarium records that were not confirmed by the TAP.

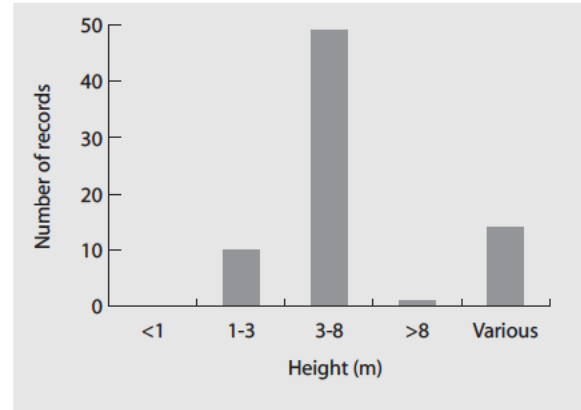
## HABITAT

Various habitats, but mostly plains, hills and dry rivers. Grows on rock, gravel, sand and loamy sand.



## GROWTH FORM

Always a tree, usually in the 3–8-m height class.



## ANNUAL CYCLE

FLOWERS mostly July, September and October, with single records in January, April and June. FRUIT July and September. LEAVES most months.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS: None recorded.



*Boscia microphylla*, B. Curtis

*Boscia albitrunca* Continued from page 93.

People use *B. albitrunca* in a number of ways, of which a few are mentioned here. The roots are used to produce curdled milk ('oma-shikwa') and ground and used as a coffee substitute; the leaves are used for medicinal purposes; the fruit is edible and a good source of vitamins.

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

Although widespread and hardy, it is heavily utilised by people and animals. The difficulty that young plants have in becoming established is a concern, but fortunately there appears to be a healthy and widespread population of young plants. Protected by forestry legislation.